



App. No. 09/687,691
Response to Office Action of September 27, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Anthony J. Baerlocher
App. No.: 09/687,691
Conf. No.: 7698
Filed: October 13, 2000
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING ODDS OF WINNING WHICH INCREASE AS
A PLAYER'S WAGER INCREASES
Art Unit: 3714
Examiner: C. Coburn
Docket No.: 0112300-483

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 27, 2004, please enter this Response in the above-identified patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

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symbols on a designated payline changes based on one or more wagerable components. For example, the odds of obtaining the winning jackpot combination on a particular payline (e.g., AAAAA) may change from 100,000:1 to 50,000:1 based on the number of coins wagered on that payline (see page 21).

The Multi-Bell machine of *Geddes* does not teach or suggest changing the odds of obtaining a particular symbol or combination of symbols on a particular payline. The odds of obtaining a particular symbol or combination of symbols on the Multi-Bell machine appear to be the same each time the Multi-Bell machine is played regardless of the number of symbols the player chooses to wager on. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 12, 15, 18 and 25, as well as Claims 2 to 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 to 24, 26 to 34, 38, and 39 that depend therefrom, are each patentably distinguished from the Multi-Bell machine of *Geddes*. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4284

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